

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for positioning a glass plate, comprising:
conveying a glass plate by a roller conveyor including a plurality of rollers, each
roller having a rolling axis; and
moving ~~horizontally one or more~~ at least one of the plurality of rollers individually in
a direction substantially parallel to the rolling axis when the ~~one or more~~ at least one of the
plurality of rollers is in contact with the glass plate in conveyance, to position the glass plate
so as to conform a posture of the glass plate to a reference posture.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
using an imaging means to capture an image of the glass plate conveyed by the roller
conveyor;
recognizing the posture of the glass plate based on the captured image of the glass
plate;
comparing the recognized posture with the reference posture previously stored to find
a deviation amount of the posture of the glass plate with respect to the reference posture;
and finding an axial displacement amount to be applied to the roller in contact with
the glass plate based on the found deviation amount and moving the roller in contact with the
glass plate in accordance with the found axial displacement amount.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising independently moving plural rollers lying under the glass plate one after another in conjunction of the conveyance of the glass plate.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising simultaneously moving plural rollers supporting the glass plate.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A system for positioning a glass plate, comprising:
a roller conveyor, ~~which includes~~ including a plurality of rollers ~~conveying~~ configured to convey a glass plate, each roller having a rolling axis; and
means for moving ~~horizontally one or more~~ at least one of the plurality of rollers individually in a direction substantially parallel to the rolling axis when the ~~one or more~~ at least one of the plurality of rollers is in contact with the glass plate in conveyance, to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate to a reference posture.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 7, further comprising:
an imaging means for capturing an image of the glass plate conveyed by the roller conveyor;

a posture recognizing means for recognizing the posture of the glass plate based on the captured image of the conveyed glass plate;

a deviation amount finding means for comparing the recognized posture with the reference posture previously stored to find a deviation amount of the posture of the conveyed glass plate with respect to the reference posture; [[and]]

a displacement amount finding means for finding an axial displacement amount to be applied to the roller in contact with the glass plate based on the found deviation amount; and

a roller displacing means for moving the roller in contact with the glass plate in accordance with the found axial displacement amount.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Original): A method for bending a glass plate, comprising:
using the method for positioning a glass plate defined in Claim 1 to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate with a reference posture, the glass plate having been heated to a glass bending temperature; and
bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape.

Claim 12 (Original): The method according to Claim 11, wherein the bending of the positioned glass plate is performed by making use of vertical movement of rollers.

Claim 13 (Original): A system for bending a glass plate, comprising:
the system defined in Claim 7; and
means for bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape.

Claim 14 (Original): The system according to Claim 13, wherein the means for bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape comprises a roller conveyor including a plurality of rollers, which are independently and vertically movable.

Claim 15 (New): A method for positioning a glass plate, comprising:

conveying a glass plate along a conveying direction by a roller conveyor including a plurality of rollers, each roller having a rolling axis; and
pivoting at least one of the plurality of rollers individually around an axis substantially perpendicular to both the conveying direction and the rolling axis when the at least one of the plurality of rollers is in contact with the glass plate in conveyance, to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate to a reference posture.

Claim 16 (New): The method according to Claim 15, further comprising:
using an imaging means to capture an image of the glass plate conveyed by the roller conveyor;
recognizing the posture of the glass plate based on the captured image of the glass plate;
comparing the recognized posture with the reference posture previously stored to find a deviation amount of the posture of the glass plate with respect to the reference posture;
and finding an axial displacement amount to be applied to the roller in contact with the glass plate based on the found deviation amount and pivoting the roller in contact with the glass plate in accordance with the found axial displacement amount.

Claim 17 (New): The method according to Claim 15, further comprising
independently pivoting plural rollers lying under the glass plate one after another in conjunction of the conveyance of the glass plate.

Claim 18 (New): The method according to Claim 15, further comprising
simultaneously pivoting plural rollers supporting the glass plate.

Claim 19 (New): A method for bending a glass plate, comprising:
using the method for positioning a glass plate defined in Claim 15 to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate with a reference posture, the glass plate having been heated to a glass bending temperature; and
bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape.

Claim 20 (New): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the bending of the positioned glass plate is performed by making use of vertical movement of rollers.

Claim 21 (New): A system for positioning a glass plate, comprising:
a roller conveyor, including a plurality of rollers configured to convey a glass plate along a conveying direction, each roller having a rolling axis; and
means for pivoting at least one of the plurality of rollers individually around an axis substantially perpendicular to both the conveying direction and the rolling axis when the at least one of the plurality of rollers is in contact with the glass plate in conveyance, to position the glass plate so as to conform a posture of the glass plate to a reference posture.

Claim 22 (New): The system according to Claim 21, further comprising:
an imaging means for capturing an image of the glass plate conveyed by the roller conveyor;
a posture recognizing means for recognizing the posture of the glass plate based on the captured image of the conveyed glass plate;
a deviation amount finding means for comparing the recognized posture with the reference posture previously stored to find a deviation amount of the posture of the conveyed glass plate with respect to the reference posture;

a displacement amount finding means for finding an axial displacement amount to be applied to the roller in contact with the glass plate based on the found deviation amount; and

a roller displacing means for pivoting the roller in contact with the glass plate in accordance with the found axial displacement amount.

Claim 23 (New): A system for bending a glass plate, comprising:

the system defined in Claim 21; and

means for bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape.

Claim 24 (New): The system according to Claim 23, wherein the means for bending the positioned glass plate in a desired curved shape comprises a roller conveyor including a plurality of rollers, which are independently and vertically movable.